

# 2021 NPCR PENNSYLVANIA SUCCESS STORY

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*Focused Quality Evaluation of Cases Impacted by Change in Histology Coding Rules*

## National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

### SUMMARY

To ensure facility and internal staff understood the new histology coding rules within the 2018 Solid Tumor Manual, a focused review was done on Breast, Colon, Lung, Kidney, Head and Neck, and Urinary cases affected by the changes.

### CHALLENGE

Due to staffing shortage the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry (PCR) was unable to provide any additional trainings. We relied on the trainings that were offered by the National Cancer Registrar Association (NCRA) and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) to convey the new rules. As a result, PCR did not have a good sense if registrars within Pennsylvania understood the new rules.

### SOLUTION

The best way to determine the registrars understanding was to review cases that were submitted. PCR staff reviewed the 2018 Solid Tumor Manual and identified rule changes with the greatest impact on histology coding. Extracts were prepared to identify cases diagnosed in 2018-2019 that were potentially coded incorrectly. Text was reviewed to determine if errors were made.

### RESULTS

The review resulted in the following breakdown of errors:

Site	Total Errors Found
Breast	540
Colon	278
Head and Neck	216
Kidney	375
Lung	525
Urinary	140

Tip Sheets were developed for each site outlining the errors made with explanations on how they should be coded. The Tip Sheets were shared with registrars through FLccSC.

### SUSTAINING SUCCESS

The same reviews will be done on 2020 cases to see if the Tip Sheets worked or if additional education is needed. This same process will be applied if other coding rules changes are released.

### REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

1-800-272-1850

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Reporting-Registries/Cancer-Registry/Pages/Cancer%20Registry.aspx>



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